Howard (J.)

THE PLAN

ADOPTED BY THE

GOVERNORS

OF THE

MIDDLESEX-HOSPITAL

FOR THE

RELIEF OF PERSONS

AFFLICTED WITH

CANCER.

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THE

PLAN

OF THE

GOVERNORS

OF THE

Middlesex-Hospital

FOR THE

RELIEF OF POOR PERSONS

AFFLICTED WITH

CANCERS

WITH

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

BY JOHN HOWARD, Surgeon.

Printed by H. L. GALABIN, INGRAM-COURT;
and sold, for the Benefit of the Hospital, by
J. DEBRETT, PICCADILLY; and by R.
BALDWIN, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

MDCCXCII.

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M.DCC.XCII.

ERRATA.

Page 45, l. 23, after *like* read *cancerous*.

47, l. 17, after ~~*attacking*~~ read *these*.

57, l. 11, read *they do not* for *it does not*.

75, l. 21, dele *a* before *condensed*.

77, l. 12, for *even* read *ever*, or *at any time*.

79, l. 22, for *a*, after *by*, read *the*.

TO THE

MEDICAL GENTLEMEN

OF THE

MIDDLESEX-HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN,

THE deplorable ſituation of paupers afflicted with the diſeaſe, called a cancer, was caſually a topic of converſation; and, in conſequence of that converſation, I was requeſted to put down, in writing, what I conceived were the beſt means of affording relief to ſuch perſons by a public inſtitution.

The preſent ſtate of the Middleſex-Hoſpital, the funds of which are ſmall when compared with ſome others, its want of immediate patronage, and having, at this time, ſeveral wards unoccupied, were the circumſtances which occaſioned the preſent application.

To profeſſional men it becomes me to write with diffidence; and any amendment of the plan, I ſhall preſently mention, will be received with pleaſure.

I take the liberty to obſerve, that two principal objects preſent themſelves to my mind on this occaſion; namely, the relief of perſons ſuffering under this diſeaſe, and the inveſtigation of a complaint, which, although extremely common, is, both with regard to its natural hiſtory and cure, but imperfectly known.* For

[* Vide note A.]

For the attainment of the firſt object, it is propoſed that an airy ward of the Middleſex-Hoſpital be appropriated to this ſpecific diſeaſe, and to this diſeaſe only; that the diſeaſed ſhall there find ſuch an alleviation of their ſufferings as their reſpective ſituations may require, and that for an unlimited time.

That one large airy ward, divided into two, one part for men and the other for women, or two diſtinct wards, containing ten or twelve beds, might be fitted up, if a ſufficient fund could be raiſed; and the ward or wards being already built, there would be wanting only the uſual furniture of beds, coal, candles, board, and nurſing: and, I believe, the expence of the above articles, including medicines, may amount to about 20 l. per annum for each of the ten or twelve;

and, as ſome patients would go off as others came in, within the ſpace of a year, there may, probably, be about forty in-patients relieved in ſucceſſion.

The worſt and moſt deplorable caſes of cancer may be divided into two claſſes; in the one claſs, the ſymptoms proceed to their final termination rapidly; in the other, ſlowly.

The firſt of theſe claſſes, as it will contain the more diſtreſſing and ſpeedily-deſtructive caſes, will comprehend the moſt proper objects for admiſſion as in-patients; among theſe will be reckoned ſcirrhous and cancerous tumours, proceeding with ſuch quickneſs in their progreſs, that they readily admit of a removal at an early, but not at a diſtant, period; and alſo ſpreading ulcerated cancers,

cers, both when relievable by art and when not.

The ſecond claſs will comprehend ſuch women as have cancers not admitting of any operation, the diſeaſe going on ſlowly, in its own natural courſe, for years. Theſe cancers, although generally adherent, are frequently not ulcerated, nor do they, when ſo circumſtanced, greatly impede the ordinary buſineſs of life. Such caſes, however, are not only objects of charity, but curious ſubjects for inveſtigation, and therefore may be relieved as out-patients, with the liberty of being admitted within the hoſpital whenever their ſymptoms ſhould become more diſtreſſing or require conſtant daily attendance.*

And, that an opportunity may not be wanting of improving our knowledge

[* Vide note B.]

of the diſeaſe and preſent methods of cure, I beg leave to ſuggeſt farther, that, whenever the fund of the inſtitution ſhall enable the governors to do ſo, a power be then given to the medical gentlemen of the hoſpital to admit occaſionally, either as in or out patients, ſuch caſes of ſcrophula, or leproſy, as may lead to the knowledge of cancer or be liable to become cancerous; and that they may be at liberty to recommend, when neceſſary, warm or cold ſea-bathing at the ſea, mineral waters, or country air, for ſuch caſes as may require more particularly theſe remedies in aid to other means of relief.*

With regard to the ſecond object, namely, the inveſtigation of the diſeaſe, Lord Bacon has obſerved, that medical men ſhould make themſelves proficients in

[* Vide note C.]

in phyſic by ſtudying one diſeaſe at a time. It is an opinion worthy of ſo great a man; it was particularly adopted by the late Mr. Pott, and by him recommended to all ſtudents in ſurgery.

By confining one or more wards to cancers only, the attention of pupils and others will be directed very ſtrictly to the ſtudy of this diſeaſe. They will ſee facts as they ariſe in the aggregate, from a large number of patients; new lights will appear, and new diſcoveries will probably be made.

"I have often thought," ſays Dr. Sydenham, "that if I knew, accurately, the "natural hiſtory of any diſeaſe, I ſhould "never be at a loſs for a proper method "of treating it:" and the wonderful improvements he made in ſcience, by his great attention to the natural hiſtory of

diſeaſes and the effects of medicine upon them, have been juſtly admired by practitioners of every country. Vide the *Preface to Dr. Sydenham's Obſervations on the Hiſtory and Cure of acute Diſeaſes.*

The natural hiſtory of cancers, although a common diſeaſe, in the enlarged comprehenſive ſenſe in which this great man underſtood the natural hiſtory of diſeaſes, is but little known; I would, therefore, in order to improve a ſubject, on which a ſucceſsful practice greatly depends, propoſe, that a faithful account of the hiſtory and circumſtances of every caſe be kept, its antecedents and conſequences ſhould be marked, the effects of medicine and of operations, when neceſſary, noted, together with all the collateral helps to be gained by an inquiry into conſtitutional habits and diſeaſes not ſtrictly cancerous, but probably connected with it. This

examination

examination may be made by a medical gentleman of the hoſpital, with the patient before him; his notes to be corrected by himſelf, and kept as a record of the hiſtory and circumſtances of each caſe, to be recurred to, as an authority, by any intelligent or ſcientific perſon. A copy of theſe notes may be kept, fairly written, for general inſpection; and, if any thing extraordinary or worthy of more particular notice ariſe from theſe ſources, let the circumſtances be publiſhed to the world at large.

By an inſtitution, comprehending the two objects now pointed out, I have a hope not only that the diſeaſed, but that practitioners in general, may be benefited; that much uſeful knowledge may be diſſeminated, and that we may, in no great length of time, be furniſhed with documents, on the diſeaſe and cure, much more authentic

authentic than any we are at this time in poſſeſſion of. It is a very important ſubject of inquiry, equally intereſting to the rich and independent part of mankind as to the poor; and, if ſuch an inſtitution be fairly ſet on foot, it cannot fail of producing beneficial conſequences to all deſcriptions of perſons labouring under this dreadful malady.

Having now, gentlemen, ſubmitted, to your conſideration, ideas, which have ariſen in the way above-mentioned, I leave their completion with you, to be amended by ſuch farther additions as may ariſe from the action of minds embarked in the ſame cauſe, that of uſeful ſcience.

I will only add, (and I repeat their names with reverence,) that a better inſtructor, in all philoſophy, is not to be found than Lord Bacon; and that, af-

ter

ter the lapſe of more than a century, regard being had to ſubſequent improvements, there is not a brighter example of ſound unſophiſticated phyſic than Dr. Sydenham; nor, I believe, a better guide to ſurgery than the late Mr. Pott.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Argyll-ſtreet,
October 12, 1791.

JOHN HOWARD.

Middleſex-Hoſpital, Jan. 7, 1792.

The REPORT of the Committee of Economy, upon a Reference made to them by a ſpecial General Court of Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, on the 14th Day of December laſt, for preparing a Mode for carrying into Execution the Propoſal and Plan, communicated by Mr. John Howard, for the Relief of Perſons afflicted with Cancer.

Mr. Howard attended, and informed this committee, that the donor propoſed to place ſo much money in the 3 per cent. conſols. in the names of William Drake, junior, Eſq. Thomas Edwards Freeman, Eſq. John Hale, Eſq. and Mr. John Howard, of Argyll-ſtreet, as truſtees, as ſhould furniſh an annual income of 120 l.

and

and alſo, that he would pay the expence of fitting up and furniſhing the ward for the reception of ten or twelve patients, afflicted with cancer.

This committee, after meeting ſeveral times to conſider of and prepare a mode of carrying the above plan into execution, referred to the committee of economy by the ſpecial court of December 14, 1791, has come to the following Reſolutions, to be reported to the next ſpecial General Court, to be held on the 19th inſtant.

I. That a ward, capable of holding ten or twelve beds, ſhall be completely fitted up and furniſhed.

II. That, when the ward is completely fitted up and furniſhed, patients ſhall be admitted; and that at leaſt ſix, if ſo many ſhould offer, ſhall be there conſtantly maintained.

III.

III. That patients afflicted with cancers ſhall be admitted in the ſame manner as other patients of the hoſpital.

IV. That patients, labouring under caſes of cancer requiring operation; ſpreading ulcerated cancers; and cancers returning after operation; ſhall remain an unlimited time, until relieved by art or releaſed by death, unleſs it ſhould be neceſſary to diſcharge them for ill behaviour.

V. Out-patients, afflicted with cancer, to be relieved with advice and medicine.

VI. That all benefactions of twenty pounds and upwards, given for this expreſs purpoſe, ſhall be funded; and that all ſums of leſs amount ſhall be applied towards immediately extending this inſtitution;

tion; and a ſeparate account ſhall be kept of all moneys received and expended for the purpoſe of this eſtabliſhment.

VII. That, in conformity to the particular wiſh of the donor, the name of every patient admitted into the wards, fitted up for the reception of patients afflicted with cancer, ſhall be entered on a journal; and when, in the judgement of the medical gentlemen of the hoſpital, any extraordinary circumſtance ſhall occur, or any remedy be diſcovered, a record ſhall be made and kept of the ſame, for the inſpection of the public, agreeably to the ſpirit of the original paper preſented by Mr. Howard, which the donor particularly requeſts may be ſtrictly adhered to.

VIII. Any perſon making a donation of fifty pounds, or upwards, to the particular eſtabliſhment for patients afflicted

with

with cancer, ſhall be a governor of this hoſpital for life.

IX. Reſolved, it is the opinion of this committee, that the requeſt of the donor, to have the original paper, delivered by Mr. John Howard, entered upon the minutes, be complied with.

Reſolved, that the explanatory paper, produced and read to this court by Mr. John Howard, be added to the above plan, (now reſolved to be carried into execution,) and entered upon the minutes of this court.

EXPLA-

EXPLANATORY PAPER.

GENTLEMEN,

The fund propoſed for this inſtitution, liberal as it undoubtedly is, does not preclude the receipt of other ſubſcriptions. The intention of the donor is only to make a handſome beginning, in the hope of many contributions from the charitably-diſpoſed, to the farther extenſion of the plan.

It is wiſhed that relief may be given, in every ſtage of the diſeaſe, to a large number of patients afflicted with cancer; and that the acceſſion of medical knowledge, hereby ariſing, may be generally and widely diffuſed.

It is preſumed ſuch an inſtitution, although ſupported by a ſeparate ſubſcription, will tend to the aggrandiſement of the Middleſex-Hoſpital. For, in no particular, is the ſubſiſting economy deranged: that economy is ſtrengthened and enlarged by the addition of new reſources, backed by immediate patronage, which may probably be the means of raiſing future ſubſcriptions to a great amount. The buſineſs of the houſe will continue to go on in the uſual way. It is no impediment to ſo benevolent a foundation. It only enlarges the ſphere of action, by holding out relief to poor cancerous patients, (many of whom are not now received into any hoſpital, or, if received, are ſoon diſcharged without finding benefit,) and, by attempting to inveſtigate, ſcientifically, the nature and cure of a diſeaſe, which, from the character of incurable hitherto annexed,

annexed, has been long, much too long, neglected.

Two deſcriptions of women, labouring under cancer, have been mentioned in the former paper, in both of which the diſeaſe proceeds with rapidity. One comprehends caſes, where the tumours are moveable, admitting relief by operation if done early enough. The other takes in ſpreading ulcerated cancers, not moveable, which cannot be operated upon with ſafety; and, from the preſent confined ſtate of our knowledge of the means of cure, may be deemed incurable. The periods, when diſſolution takes place in theſe laſt caſes, vary in different perſons; but humanity, as well as the hope of diſcovering ſomething more than we know at preſent reſpecting the treatment of this diſeaſe, require, that ſuch patients be not hurried out of the hoſpital under an idea

that they are incurable; for, theſe, of all other caſes, call aloud for time and patience.

It is a melancholy, but a true, reflection, that very few perſons, with ulcerated cancers, do ſurvive many months after their ſores have ſpread and become highly irritable; and theſe unfortunate ſufferers, in the judgement of the donor, ſhould be kept in the hoſpital till relieved by art or releaſed by death.

When a cancer returns after an attempt made to cure it by an operation, that caſe alſo claims admiſſion; for, after a certain period, it will be a ſpreading ulcerated cancer, and require the ſame indulgences to the end.

The relief, held out to theſe deplorable caſes, is a ſtriking feature in the preſent plan,

plan, and not to be found within the rules of any hoſpital; but, had the intention of the donor been confined ſimply to ſuch, the charity would have been too partial. It would, it is true, have been a charity for incurables, but it would have been conſidered as an alms-houſe. The *eadem vocabula rerum* might, in time, have prevailed, common dreſſings and common means would, probably, have been uſed; while the cauſe of ſcience, with the beſt intentions of the medical gentlemen of the houſe, had been forwarded very little indeed.

To make the plan complete, the addition of patients of a third deſcription was wanting, and the defect is ſupplied by admitting caſes that require operation. By the ſpecification of the three kinds of caſes, as they ſtand in the fourth reſolution of the committee, the plan is perfected. The

principal ſubjects on which future improvements muſt turn (taking in the collateral aid of the papers) are ſufficiently defined, and can never be miſtaken. Thus, the character of the inſtitution is ſpecified with preciſion, as a charity for cancers in general; and, in proportion to the number of caſes requiring operation this inſtitution will embrace, ſo will the general expences of the hoſpital be leſſened by this ſeparate proviſion for cancerous caſes already admiſſible within its walls.

Perſons afflicted with cancers, which go on ſlowly for years, and are adherent without ulceration, are, in this plan, conſidered as out-patients. Theſe, however, become objects of admiſſion, when their cancers ulcerate, when ſuch become highly irritable, and when the ſufferers can no longer follow their accuſtomed occupations.

There

There are alſo ſome other caſes of cancerous tumours, which will not require admiſſion but for the purpoſe of being removed.

From the foregoing outline it is clear, that the plan embraces not only the moſt diſtreſſing objects, but every ſymptom and circumſtance of the diſeaſe: abſtracted, therefore, from the relief and comfort it will afford to many a ſuffering individual, there will be a fair ſcope for inveſtigation and improvement, which no inſtitution upon a ſmaller ſcale could poſſibly give.

Had the affair of inveſtigation been omitted, the plan would not only have been extremely imperfect, but it would neither have filled the mind nor have anſwered the intentions of the donor; I can only ſay, he has the whole matter much at

heart. He does not mean to preſcribe to the medical gentlemen of the houſe, but hopes that this part of the plan will be kept up with due attention and ſpirit. As a very intereſting paſſage in the works of Lord Bacon will, I believe, explain farther his ideas on this ſubject, I beg leave to ſubjoin it.

When ſpeaking of certain deſiderata in medicine, he ſays, " *Primum eſt, inter-*
" *miſſio diligentiæ illius Hippocratis, utilis*
" *admodum, et accuratæ, cui moris erat,*
" *narrativam componere caſuum circa ægro-*
" *tos ſpecialium, referendo qualis fuiſſet*
" *morbi natura, qualis medicatio, qualis*
" *eventus. Atque hujus rei nactis nobis*
" *jam exemplum tam proprium atque inſigne,*
" *in eo ſcilicet viro, qui tanquam parens ar-*
" *tis habitus eſt, minime opus erit exem-*
" *plum aliquod forinſecum ab alienis artibus*
" *petere; veluti a prudentiâ juris-conſul-*
" *torum,*

" *torum, quibus nihil antiquius, quam il-*
" *luſtriores caſus, et novas deciſiones, ſcrip-*
" *tis mandare; quo melius ſe, ad futuros*
" *caſus, muniant et inſtruant. Iſtam pro-*
" *inde continuationem medicinalium narra-*
" *tionum deſiderari video; preſertim in*
" *unum corpus cum diligentiâ et judicio di-*
" *geſtam: quam tamen non intelligo ita fieri*
" *debere amplam, ut plane vulgata, et quæ*
" *quotidie obveniant, excipiat (id enim in-*
" *finitum quiddam eſſet neque ad rem) nec*
" *rurſus tam anguſtam ut ſolummodo mira-*
" *bilia et ſtupenda (id quod a nonnullis fac-*
" *tum eſt) complectatur. Multa enim in*
" *modo rei et circumſtantiis ejus, nova ſunt,*
" *quæ in genere ipſo nova non ſunt; qui au-*
" *tem ad obſervandum adjicit animum, ei,*
" *etiam in rebus, quæ vulgares videntur*
" *multa obſervatu digna occurrent.*" Mallet's Edition of Lord Bacon's Works. Vol. IV. cap. II. page 111. De Augmentis Scientiarum.

NOTES

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AND

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ſcribed.

The following NOTES and OBSERVATIONS are ſubmitted to the Public, to explain more fully certain Parts of the above Plan, and may be conſidered as Subjects of future Inquiry. They have been written without Order, and without any other Arrangement than what the immediate Neceſſity of bringing this Buſineſs forward has preſcribed,

[Note A.]

UNDER the general name of *cancer*, are comprehended, not only morbid affections of very different parts, but, if we conſider this as a generic term, under it are contained, if not very different diſeaſes, at leaſt ſeveral ſpecies and varieties of the ſame diſeaſe.

The chirurgical treatment of cancers has been greatly meliorated by the moderns: but, if we trace the

the preſent ſtate of knowledge back to its ſource, we ſhall find that leſs improvement has been made in the natural hiſtory and cure of this than of moſt other diſeaſes. It will be found that much uſeful information may *ſtill* be drawn from the writings of Hippocrates, Aretæus Cappadox, Galen, Celſus, and others. Theſe men, with very little aſſiſtance from the preliminary ſciences to phyſic, (I mean anatomy, botany, chemiſtry, and phyſiology,) carried their inquiries to a very great length: and it has been generally acknowledged, that, in their deſcriptions of diſeaſes, they were very accurate obſervers of nature. They probably derived advantages even from their ignorance of that great extent of knowledge in theſe ſciences, which engroſſes ſo much the time and attention of modern medical men. Their minds were confined to objects comparatively few in number; and, theſe being for the moſt part obvious to the ſenſes, when they deſcribe what they have ſeen, they are generally very correct: but, when they attempt a theory, both from the ſmall progreſs they made, not only in the above parts of medicine, but in the knowledge of the effects of remedies, we too often find them deficient. But how true ſoever this may be when applied to phyſic in general, their knowledge of cancers was by no means contemptible. Hippocrates, ſpeaking *de concluſis*

cluſis uteri menſibus, ſays, "*Et in mammis tubercula*
"*dura oriuntur, quædam quidem majora, quædam*
"*vero minora. Hæc autem minime ſuppurant, ſed*
"*ſemper duriora fiant; ex his deinde occulti cancri*
"*pullulant.*" The *tubercula majora* and *minora* expreſs two different ſtates of the diſeaſe, as it appears at this day. And, in this particular caſe, his principal indication of cure aroſe naturally from the cauſe aſſigned. Whether he promoted a diſcharge from the hæmorrhoidal veſſels, as a neceſſary means of relief when the catamenia were either deficient or wholly abſent, I have not yet been able to inquire; but it may certainly be done, in many caſes, with great effect. Without that critical knowledge of anatomy, on which we now greatly depend, he knew, from attention to the operations of nature, that there was a conſent, or ſympathy, between the female breaſts and uterus: that congeſtion in one part would be leſſened by congeſtion in another, with which it was intimately connected; and that affections of the breaſts would be ſtill more relieved, when a due determination and conſequent evacuation had taken place from the uterine veſſels; and he directed his courſe accordingly.

Aretæus Cappadox has not written much on external diſeaſes, but he imputes the riſe of a ſcirrhus

of

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"*vero minora. Hæc autem minime ſuppurant, ſed*
"*ſemper duriora fiant; ex his deinde occulti cancri*
"*pullulant.*" The *tubercula majora* and *minora* expreſs two different ſtates of the diſeaſe, as it appears at this day. And, in this particular caſe, his principal indication of cure aroſe naturally from the cauſe aſſigned. Whether he promoted a diſcharge from the hæmorrhoidal veſſels, as a neceſſary means of relief when the catamenia were either deficient or wholly abſent, I have not yet been able to inquire; but it may certainly be done, in many caſes, with great effect. Without that critical knowledge of anatomy, on which we now greatly depend, he knew, from attention to the operations of nature, that there was a conſent, or ſympathy, between the female breaſts and uterus: that congeſtion in one part would be leſſened by congeſtion in another, with which it was intimately connected; and that affections of the breaſts would be ſtill more relieved, when a due determination and conſequent evacuation had taken place from the uterine veſſels; and he directed his courſe accordingly.

Aretæus Cappadox has not written much on external diſeaſes, but he imputes the riſe of a ſcirrhus

of

of the liver and ſpleen to inflammation taking an unfavourable turn. He deſcribes a cancer of the uterus; and, of cancers in general, he ſays, "*Ul-*
"*ceratus autem cancer, non ulcerato, longè improbior*
"*eſt, et odore, et dolore, et vitâ, et morte.*"

The progreſs and appearances of the adherent cancer, its highly-irritable diſpoſition, and the danger of tampering with it, were as well known to Hippocrates and Celſus as to the beſt-informed ſurgeon of the preſent time. And the deſcription of a cancer, by the latter, is ſo truly expreſſive of the diſeaſe as for ever to diſcriminate it from every other with which it may accidentally be confounded.

In the works of Galen may be found many obſervations which have been repeated and ſometimes perverted by ſubſequent writers. I know not what ideas can be formed of his *atra bilis* when applied to this diſeaſe; I can only ſay, from obſervation, that perſons afflicted with a genuine cancer are frequently highly bilious: and I conceive, that, upon this general ſymptom, a very important indication, in the treatment of cancers, may be formed. He uſed Solanum as a topic; "*Et cancros incipientes tantum*
"*ſanabiles pronunciat.*" Oribaſius, Ætius, and Paulus

Paulus Ægineta, copied Galen, but they improved the art. The parts moſt affected with cancers, in the time of the antients, according to their deſcriptions, correſpond with modern obſervations. The great diſtance of time, the difference of climates, and a very different mode of living, have made no great alteration. We have, it is true, the chimney-ſweepers cancer, which they perhaps had not; but this is, I believe, the principal, if not the only, exception. The circumſtances of this cancer, beginning in the *rugæ* of the part, and extending thence and affecting the neighbouring gland ſecondarily, are well known. I have ſeen an affection, ſomewhat ſimilar, ariſe as a boil, containing, as other boils generally do, a ſlough, but of ſlower progreſs, in the ſame part, in a man who had never any connection with ſoot: and, in this caſe alſo, the gland became diſeaſed in the ſame way. The chimney-ſweepers cancer begins with what is called the ſoot-wart, which is followed by a ſpreading ulceration.

In the adherent as well as in ſome other caſes of cancer, the antients very wiſely attempted to moderate what experience had repeatedly ſhewn them they could not cure: and, from the means they employed, I am inclined to believe they frequently ſucceeded.

They underſtood the uſe of the knife, of aſtringents, and cauſtics; to which they added the actual cautery: and they were fully ſenſible of the great advantage of removing ſcirrhous and cancerous tumours at a very early period. The knife, under certain limitations, has been generally adopted by modern ſurgery; aſtringents and cauſtics have ſometimes been uſed, but the cautery has, for the moſt part, been neglected. There is, however, an inſtance of the cure of a fungous excreſcence, within the orbit, in a late French writer: and, in an hoſpital of this town, I remember to have ſeen the cure of a cancerous fungus, within the month, by the ſame means. The practice, in the firſt inſtance, although apparently modern, was as old, if not older, than Albucaſis; and the uſe of the cautery, in the latter, may be traced even to Hippocrates. In a fungous ſpongy kind of excreſcence on a boy's chin, I once ſucceeded in effecting a cure by aſtringing and ſloughing the part with a ſtrong ſolution of Saccharum Saturni. Le Dran mentions, if I recollect right, the cure of a cancer of the breaſt by a mortification taking place accidentally. The effects in both inſtances were partial; as much ſo as is that kind of mortification which ariſes from tying thoſe diſeaſed excreſcences, which often ariſe in conſequence of piles.

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The Arabians borrowed from the Greek and Latin writers, and added to their acquirements. The actual cautery was, by them, carried to a great extent. They ſeem to have applied it more generally than their predeceſſors, and they not only uſed it to cancers, but to many other diſeaſes. It was a ſubſtitute for bliſtering, before the uſe of cantharides was known; it was employed in a great variety of caſes, and anticipated, many centuries ago, the modern cauſtic in curvatures of the ſpine, as may be ſeen in Albucaſis. In the ſame author, we have three modes of cauteriſing in a ſmall incipient cancer. The cautery was ſometimes applied to the center of the tumour. This method our author did not approve of; but he recommends the uſe of the ſame means, in a circular direction round the tumour; and he alſo mentions the application of ſeveral cauteries in the neighbourhood of the part diſeaſed. Their cauteries were generally ſmall, calculated to produce immediate irritation. The application was frequently a kind of acupunctuation, purpoſely rendered more painful and active by fire. In apoplexies, epilepſies, ſciatica, in obſtinate pains of the head, in the hydrocephalus of children, and in many other diſeaſes, it was a common, and, I

have no doubt, (although painful, and to us horrid,) a very powerful remedy.

Would the application of a cautery or a cauſtic, in a circular manner round a ſmall incipient cancer, *but without touching it*, by cutting off the communication with the ſurrounding veſſels, tend to leſſen the tumour, or to check its farther progreſs? Would it be of uſe to keep ſuch a ſore open, as a drain? Would theſe means, by diminiſhing the irritability of the diſeaſed gland, render its ſubſequent removal more ſafe, more manageable, or the cure more certain? Would they prevent the ſpreading of the ſore or wound, and that return of diſeaſe which ſo often takes place after the removal of cancers? Would the application of the ſame means, to the ſore itſelf, after it has contracted and is healing, prevent the return of diſeaſe? Or, laſtly, would the application of modern cauſtics, of which we have great variety, by producing the deſtruction of the part at once, and extending to all the attachments of the diſeaſe, in a ſmall cancerous tumour, be an improvement?

Surgery, about the middle of the ſixteenth and for the greater part of the ſeventeenth century, was but in a rude ſtate. The chirurgical writers of this period

period copied from their predeceſſors; but they did not always copy them fairly, nor did they materially improve the treatment of the diſeaſe. The French made more early advances in ſurgery than the Engliſh, and among them we find many highly uſeful remarks on cancers. From the obſervations, conſultations, and operations, of Le Dran, much information may be gained. The account of cancers, in the latter work, is well drawn up, and ſhews great knowledge of the diſeaſe. In the memoirs of the French Royal Academy of Surgery, there are ſome excellent remarks; and our countrymen have been no leſs active in noting a great variety of circumſtances in the diſeaſe. It muſt alſo be confeſſed that we have many hiſtories of particular caſes, but they are, for the moſt part, incomplete: ſo incomplete, that it would be difficult to point out three caſes of cancer of the female breaſt, on record, in which the local appearances and ſymptoms, produced in the ſyſtem in general, are detailed in a correct manner from the beginning to the end of the diſeaſe. General accounts there are many; partial hiſtories of caſes there are many; but caſes in detail, comprehending not only the more ſtriking but the little important circumſtances of the diſeaſe and treatment are much wanted. When I mention the general ſymptoms of a cancer, I allude to that uni-

verſal indiſpoſition, which, for the moſt part, precedes and accompanies the progreſs of this diſeaſe in the female; and this has, in a great meaſure, been overlooked by chirurgical writers. The ſtate of the catamenia and hæmorrhoids, when the latter have become habitual, has not been ſo much attended to as their very great influence, in regulating the economy of the body at different periods, ſeems to require; and yet on theſe circumſtances much will depend. The plumbean countenance has been marked, by a late practical writer, as a circumſtance ſtrongly characteriſing certain cancers. Violent pains of the head; a dry, painful, vomiting, and ſometimes a bilious, kind of affection, precede the attack in a genuine cancer of the female breaſt: nor do theſe ſymptoms ceaſe upon its formation, but recur, at uncertain intervals, throughout all its ſubſequent ſtages. A lady, about ſeventy, ſubject to gout, had a ſmall moveable carcinomatous tumour in one breaſt; ſo long as ſhe had the gout in the uſual way, this tumour did not trouble her, but remained quiet for years: but, when ſhe ceaſed to have it, the cancer grew painful and ſoon ulcerated: when it tended to ulceration, and for the ſhort time ſhe lived after it was ulcerated, the affection of her ſtomach was ſo great, and the fits of reaching ſo painful and violent, that they appeared more diſtreſſing

treſſing than the diſeaſe itſelf. It has often been a matter of aſtoniſhment to me, to ſee, upon the ulceration of a cancerous tumour of a ſmall ſize, much more early in life, how rapidly the countenance, the general health, and ſtate, of the woman, has been altered: from having been plump and florid, ſhe has ſuddenly become pale, emaciated, her cheeks fallen, her noſe pinched in, her ſtrength greatly diminiſhed, and her appetite gone. When ſuch circumſtances ariſe from acute internal diſeaſes, the change is not to be wondered at; but why a ſmall external cancer ſhould produce theſe phænomena, unleſs they are the effects of very great irritation, and the abſorption of ſomething highly noxious to the ſyſtem, is not eaſily explained. The poiſon, abſorbed, (if it can be called by ſo hard a name,) ſeems to be generated, by time and delay, within the body. And with reſpect to the communication of diſeaſe, by the application of cancerous matter to the mouth, which has been ſuppoſed, I can only ſubmit the circumſtance to future inquiry. If the true cancer depends on a leprous taint, it may, very poſſibly, be thus infectious: ſome circumſtances will be hereafter adduced to ſhew this connection; but the affair of infection ſtill requires farther proof.

[Note B.]

These cases answer, in most respects, to the description given of cancers, by Celsus, and are, I believe, of that species which Hippocrates has called occult. The best modern, as well as antient, writers, not finding, from the immobility of these tumours, that they could be perfectly removed, have never attempted to do more than moderate their progress. They have been considered as the worst kind of cancer, incapable of bearing the smallest irritation, and have been generally left, under gentle treatment, to time and nature. It may humble the pride of art; but it is extremely true, that, when so left, the disease has very frequently remained for many years quiet, sometimes even to old age: but when accident or some violent local irritation inflames the tumour, it then increases in size, the skin breaks, and, ulceration taking place, the mischief spreads far and wide: and it has been found, from the concurring testimony of practitioners in general, that every thing in the way of operation does hurt, by accelerating the mischief, and bringing on bad symptoms prematurely: in short, this species of cancer can only be moderated,

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If theſe facts be admitted in adherent cancers, ſimilar means of relief perhaps may ſometimes be employed in other cancers not adherent, provided they continue quiet, neither increaſing nor affecting the neighbouring glands. But theſe caſes require conſtant and very accurate attention, to chooſe, if they muſt be removed, the preciſe period of their progreſs, *before* the contents of the gland or glands have ſo far proceeded to a crude ſtate of fermentation, ſloughineſs, or whatever elſe it may be, which, when abſorbed or communicated, affects not only the nearer lymphatic, the other neighbouring glands of the ſame order with the originally-diſeaſed one, but the ſmall glands of the ſkin, and the ſyſtem in general. For, it muſt be noted that the progreſs of this diſeaſe is ſometimes extremely rapid.

[Note

[Note C.]

There ſeems to be a great affinity between ſcrophula, leproſy, and cancer. —— A man, about fifty, corpulent, and of a coarſe, florid, complexion, with a ſettled red in his cheeks, and light hair, was ſubject to hard, thickened, and elevated, rhagades, with a yellowiſh-white cruſt in the palm of one hand. To this complaint he had been ſubject for many years: it firſt began with a ſcorbutic kind of eruption on the head, after he had been cured of the itch. Upon the eruption going off from thence, it attacked the above part: after continuing there for ſome years, ſometimes in a ſtiff, painful, ſtate, in the form of rhagades, the affection left that hand and attacked the other in the ſame manner. It would be ſometimes ſcurfy, and ſcarcely elevated above the ſkin: when, in that ſtate, it was no great inconvenience; but the ſkin, in the clefts of the hand, would, at times, be conſiderably thickened, and raiſed into a number of hard, large, purpliſh, kind of knobs: the part was affected with a troubleſome itching, and the tumours, upon touching them, appeared to be inſenſible, or nearly ſo, as is the caſe in the true elephantiaſis, and in ſome kinds of

of cancerous tumours. Every year, as the ſummer advanced, the rhagades would get worſe, be more elevated, harder, and of a deeper hue. The general complaints, to which he was ſubject, were headache, indigeſtion, ſickneſs, and irritation at the neck of his bladder, &c. The wife of this man was of a ſanguine, melancholic, temperament; of a ſwarthy complexion, dark eyes, and black hair, ſubject to gout, but without any appearance of a ſcorbutic or ſcrophulous diſpoſition. A ſon of this couple, at the age of eighteen, had a ſcrophulous affection of one of his knees; which, notwithſtanding every aſſiſtance that could be procured him, ended in an incurable hectic. This young man's temperament inclined wholly to that of the father: like him he had blue eyes and light hair, but was of a more delicate make, with a clearer and finer ſkin. Beſides a diſeaſed knee, he had ſcrophulous glands in his neck; and, when he was greatly reduced by the hectic, a hoarſeneſs came on; and, after this, upon examining his throat and mouth, I diſcovered an eroſion of the *oſſa palati*, and the opening was nearly an inch in diameter. See the account of the leproſy in the London Medical Obſervations of the College, vol. I. page 201.

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The rhagades, to which the father of this man was ſubject, I take to have been a modification of the elephantiaſis, or a ſpecies of leproſy; and, from the *raucedo vocis* and eroſion of the palate, which affected the ſon, I am inclined to think he alſo had one of theſe diſeaſes in his habit, but that the form in which it appeared in him was the ſcrophula. — The father of this young man is now living. I was much ſurpriſed, upon ſeeing him lately, to find that the rhagades were entirely gone from both his hands, but the diſeaſe had ſhifted from them to one arm, and that arm is leprous; his health is much worſe than it ever was; his tongue is conſtantly white; he complains of giddineſs, loſs of appetite, and dimneſs of ſight; and is evidently emaciated.

In another family there are two children, one of which has a glandular ſwelling of the ſcrophulous kind; the other, a rough, ſcaly, dry, thick, kind of ſkin: the father, I have reaſon to think, is ſcrophulous; his mother had a cancer; and every one of his children (and he has ſeveral) have that peculiar kind of hoarſeneſs, to which ſcrophulous perſons are ſometimes liable. — I am acquainted with a third family; one child of which, having ſlept with a ſervant who had a number of leprous ſpots upon her,

her, was ſoon covered from head to foot with an eruption very like that of the ſervant, but got well by ſmall doſes of Æthiops Antimon. This child was, perhaps, prediſpoſed from his father to this affection; for the latter, ſome years after this, was ſeized with an appearance truly leprous. After having been ſome time in an ill ſtate of health, loſing his fleſh, complaining of giddineſs, ſickneſs, and indigeſtion, a ſtrong preparation of ſteel was recommended to him; when he had taken this for ſome time, an eruption, evidently of the leprous kind, appeared on one of his arms; upon this his ſymptoms were greatly relieved, and his general health altered for the better. He has now had this complaint three years; during that time a ſimilar affection has attacked the other arm, but that firſt affected has ſpread conſiderably here and there: ſeveral diſtinct knobs have ariſen in the ſkin and cellular membrane; theſe knobs are firſt moveable, hard, then ſlough ſlowly, and lay bare the the ſurface of the ſubjacent muſcles. When they have gone on in this progreſs, they heal, and others ariſe; theſe knobs are very like affections of the miliary glands of the ſkin, which we often find in the breaſts of women: his health is now, in other reſpects, perfectly reſtored. —— To ſhew farther the connection between lepra and cancer, I beg leave

leave to compare an adherent ſcirrhous tumour of the breaſt, of long ſtanding, and, for the moſt part, late in life, with the rhagades above-deſcribed; the ſame increment at particular periods, the ſame itching uneaſineſs, the ſame cruſty appearance at ſome particular parts of the tumour or tumours, the ſame hardneſs, inſenſibility, and hue, prevail in the one as in the other. With regard to ſcirrhous tumours in the breaſts of women; irritation and inflammation, long kept up in any glandular part, may cauſe it to ſwell, become tender, and even painful; and in this way many ſcirrhous tumours, in young or middle-aged women, come on originally. There is, as has been obſerved, a very particular conſent between the uterus and breaſts, about the time of the periodical return of the catamenia, in many women, which is indicated by a fulneſs, tenderneſs, and ſenſe of weight, in theſe parts, a ſhort time before the evacuation from the uterine veſſels commences. The partial application of cold, and many other cauſes, may check or totally obſtruct this evacuation, and thereby occaſion a congeſtion, or load, in the glands of the breaſts: when theſe have been once affected, a diſpoſition to irritation and inflammation is given; it will depend on other circumſtances whether this affection may ever amount to a ſcirrhus. The catamenia returning,

returning, there being no other cauſe applied, it is very poſſible that the fulneſs and congeſtion may go off; but if a blow has been received, or if a ſecond inflammation ariſes, if there is a tendency to ſcrophula, or what I would call a leprous taint, in either of theſe caſes, the gland or glands, injured, may continue to enlarge, become more painful, or remain in an indolent ſtate, according to the violence or activity of the exciting cauſe; and, in this manner many ſcirrhi become troubleſome, and even cancerous, in women, long before, what ſeems to be, the natural period of life for this diſeaſe. Many cancerous tumours in men, and diſeaſed breaſts in women, even early in life, when they ariſe without any known exciting cauſe, ſuch as a blow, inflammation, &c. are, perhaps, *idiopathic*, that is, original diſeaſes of the habit, attacking particular parts. The obſervations, hitherto made, are applicable to perſons who are young and in the vigour of life, as well as to thoſe who have not yet paſſed its meridian; but when, after that, age advances, then both the prediſpoſing and exciting cauſes, above-mentioned, are more to be dreaded; and, in addition to them, there naturally ariſe other circumſtances, which may render what has been, perhaps for many years, a ſimple glandular enlargement, or a ſimple indolent ſcirrhus,

truly

truly cancerous. The learned Baron Haller, has given two very ingenious hints reſpecting the uſe of the lymphatic glands, and the origin of ſcirrhous tumours. See Prima Lin. Phyſiologiæ, p. 109. Gottenburg, 1752. *Boni aliquid has glandulas vaſis lymphaticis et lymphæ præſtare ſatis certum eſt, cum nullum vas lymphaticum lacteumve ad ſuam inſertionem perveniat, quin in aliquam glandulam ramos prius diſtribuerit, ramoſque ab eis reduces reciperit; chyloſus ſuccus quo hæ glandulæ in junioribus hominibus et animalibus replentur, et niger ille, quo turgent in pectore ſenili demonſtrat ſecerni aliquid de ſanguine in his glandulis; et affundi, lymphæ chylove, in celluloſa fortè ſpatia expulſis. Magnitudo et integritas in junioribus, corruptio et deſtructio in adultis ſenibuſque, ſuadent, hanc ſecretionem, in juniori animali integerrimam, in ſenio, perire*; non alibi crebrior ſcirrhus.

The above facts, relative to the lymphatic glands, deſerve a very particular attention; for, an alteration of ſtructure and ſecretion certainly prevails in other glands, as well as in them, at particular ſtages of life: as, for example, in the glands of the female breaſt, when the catamenia no longer appear; and in the teſtes and proſtates of men at a certain period. If age, therefore, produces ſome remarkable changes in theſe glands alſo, and if the lymphatic

lymphatic ſyſtem is concerned in their formation and functions, which I believe is indiſputable; it follows, both from the concurrence of a ſimilar cauſe, as well as from that connection, which theſe glands muſt have with the lymphatic ſyſtem, that the ſame diſeaſe may be produced in them, in nearly the ſame manner. If this be denied, it muſt however be allowed, that age is certainly a very powerful prediſponent cauſe to cancer. In a woman, upon the ceſſation of the catamenia, thoſe parts, which nature made ſubſervient to parturition, and the nouriſhment of the child after birth, become uſeleſs as far as reſpects theſe important purpoſes, the female ceaſing to have the periodical *plethora* in her breaſts and uterus, and that natural evacuation which takes theſe painful affections off. — The circumſtances, in which they formerly were, are now totally changed; and, from that time forward, they are regulated by new laws. And whenever in man, that period of life arrives, at which an alteration from age, in certain glandular parts, is produced; then a revolution takes place in his ſyſtem alſo. The internal ſtructure of theſe glands being different from what it was before, if they ſtill continue capable of ſecretion, the nature of that ſecretion is ſo totally changed, that it has probably a great tendency to become acrimonious.

Why are the ſecretions from ſome glandular parts more fœtid in old than young perſons, if age does not bring on this acrimony? Why are old animals generally allowed to be more ſtrong and more rank than young? And why is the urine in them moſt frequently more offenſive? Do not theſe circumſtances ſhew that there is not only an acrimony attendant on advanced age, but alſo a diſpoſition to putrefaction?

From the great difficulty there frequently is in curing even a ſlight wound, or ſore of the leg, in perſons paſſed the middle age, whoſe conſtitutions are not perfectly good; it may, I think, be fairly inferred, that there is frequently a diſpoſition in the ſyſtem, about that time or after it, to local chronic inflammation; and this, when once produced, is very apt to become habitual. The numerous inſtances daily met with of ulcerations in the legs in ſome habits, and particularly in elderly perſons, which can by no art whatever be perfectly healed, or, if healed, are followed by ſome worſe diſeaſe, ſhew moſt clearly, that, towards the decline of life, this local inflammation and drain are often highly neceſſary to health. If we look farther into the habitual diſeaſes, incident to the ſame period, we ſhall find that chronic rheumatiſms, catarrhs, aſthmas,

aſthmas, diſpoſition to eryſipelatous inflammation, and gout, are very common. The hæmorrhoids begin generally much more early, even during the vigour of life, and continue throughout all its ſubſequent ſtages: and, according to the prevalence of each of theſe complaints, after they become habitual, and recur at certain or uncertain periods, ſo have they a greater or leſs tendency to keep off many other diſeaſes. This is particularly remarkable with reſpect to the gout; for, ſo long as this diſeaſe continues regular, it is perhaps the beſt preventative of the bad effects of a ſcirrhus both in male and female; but, the moment it ceaſes to be a ſalutary effort of nature to relieve the conſtitution; when, after a long ſeries of regular fits, it becomes anomalous, or when, by inattention, it has been made ſo; then the balance in the ſyſtem, which this diſeaſe has for years maintained, loſes its influence: it is no longer the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, but leaves the body open and defenceleſs to the formidable attacks of other diſeaſes. I remember an inſtance of this kind in a perſon aged ſixty-eight, who took pains to cure a kindly regular gout. When the diſeaſe left him, he grew debilitated, from being remarkably healthy and robuſt. It never could be reproduced. The ſymptoms of a ſcirrhus ſoon appeared; and, in a few months, proved fatal. I am

of opinion that the gland had, in this caſe, been enlarged long before the ſymptoms, denoting a ſcirrhus, appeared, and that theſe ſymptoms might have been kept off much longer, if the gout had continued regular; for, he certainly had them not, before he altered the natural progreſs of that diſeaſe. Whenever therefore an habitual diſeaſe prevails in an elderly perſon, who has long had a prediſpoſition to ſcirrhus or cancer, it behoves the practitioner to pay attention to the derivation and revulſion ſuch habitual diſeaſes may make from the local one. And this will apply to all ſcirrhi in perſons ſubject to gout and other habitual diſeaſes. Such attention cannot poſſibly cure the ſcirrhus, but it may keep it within moderate bounds, and thereby put off the evil day.

Having ſhewn in many inſtances that there is at the period of life above ſpecified, a tendency in the ſyſtem to local chronic inflammation, or what may, perhaps with more propriety, be called a diſpoſition to local chronic irritation; I come, in the next place, to the application of this principle to ſcirrhous and cancerous tumours in general. And I ſay, that, with reſpect to women after the middle age, when the catamenia have ceaſed, or are about to leave them, that the tendency to this chronic irritation is then

then ſtrong, and continues for the remainder of life. The ſyſtem is not only frequently diſpoſed to the ſeveral diſeaſes above-enumerated, but their breaſts and uteri, from that gradual decay, which time and age do conſtantly bring with them, loſing their former functions, are particularly diſpoſed to injury, that a blow or any other cauſe capable of raiſing irritation on theſe parts, at and after this period, may produce a ſcirrhus; and this, when once produced, may, under ſuch circumſtances, probably go on with greater or leſs rapidity, till the glands affected become truly cancerous; and theſe conſequences may take place, without the appearance of a ſcrophulous or other vice in the conſtitution. If the fact be that ſcrophula and leproſy are different modifications of the ſame diſeaſe, if the lymphatic and other glandular parts ſuffer an alteration in their ſtructure, and in the qualities of the ſeveral fluids ſecreted in them, in conſequence of age, it is fair to ſuppoſe, that, whenever a leprous vice is joined to theſe circumſtances, the tendency to true cancer will be moſt ſtrong.

A lady, of a ſcrophulous habit, died of a cancer, which was increaſed from the cure of a leprous ſpot on one of her fingers by a topic, applied without

her explaining to the ſurgeon that ſhe had alſo a cancer. This topic was ſulphur.

A married man and woman had three children. The father of theſe children was ſcrophulous, the mother had an incurable cancer of the breaſt: two of the three children were ſcrophulous; the eldeſt had the elephantiaſis to ſo great a degree that he died of it. More facts might be adduced to ſhew that there is this kind of hereditary affinity between ſcrophula, lepra, and cancer; and that the diſeaſe of the parent will thus paſs to the child, but modified in a different way. And, agreeable to this, we find, that the ſame means, which moderate the violence of ſcrophulous and leprous effections, have ſometimes a tendency to moderate thoſe which are ſcirrhous and cancerous; namely, ſea-water, warm and cold ſea bathing, warm fomentations of ſea-water, purging mineral waters, a proper diet, &c.

There is no habitual affection more worthy of a minute attention, in cancers, than the hæmorrhoids.

A pile in its moſt early ſtate is a diſtended varicoſe vein. When local irritation ariſes and an effort of nature

nature is made on the part, not only diſtention but pain and ſlight inflammation take place. If theſe circumſtances proceed to a conſiderable degree, the loaded veſſel or veſſels generally burſt; an evacuation of blood following, the fit is thereby terminated. But, if the veſſel does not burſt, the irritation may continue and the pile may be compared to an autumnal fig, never ripening, which is hard although withering on the tree; if this little tumour be opened a ſmall quantity of grumous blood is evacuated, and upon this the ſymptoms ceaſe. This is a ſhort deſcription of the progreſs of a ſingle pile; and what has been ſaid of one, may eaſily be extended to a number. The courſe of nature in the formation of this complaint, and the relief that may be derived thus early from ſurgery, are obvious. How far that may, under certain circumſtances, be a right practice, when this kind of defluxion is critical, is another queſtion. I am of opinion that the piles are only objects of ſurgery when they become morbid, and not then, without a careful reference to the general ſtate of the patient.

Acrimony derived from the ſtimulating effects of evacuations from the inteſtines, as the natural outlets through which different glandular bodies contained within the abdomen empty themſelves;

the rectum, as the loweſt part, being the laſt receptacle; the natural ſituation and ſtructure of the veins, and frequent preſſure from above, are the local circumſtances which diſpoſe to defluxion; but theſe circumſtances are aided and ſupported by an economy of the body, which, in ſome habits, is indiſpenſibly neceſſary to its well-being, and can ſeldom be changed with impunity. The limits, at which nature ceaſes to ſupport the balance of health in the ſyſtem by the piles, are not definable within the ſmall compaſs of the preſent work. I can therefore only repeat that acrimony and preſſure, to which may be added ſtricture from the contraction of the ſphincter, may to a great degree not only forward the defluxion, but produce a kind of ſtrangulation of protruded piles. Here alſo one of the moſt certain ways of giving relief is to open them either by the lancet or leaches; and, of the two, the firſt is the moſt ready and the ſafeſt. If the coagula be fairly let out, the irritation goes off, the piles retract, and the return of the diſeaſe, when it happens, is rendered leſs painful, and what was a ſhort time before a preternatural, becomes again a regular, habitual affection. When the defluxion is great, and there are many piles protruded with a varicoſe ſtate of the veins high up, there may ſometimes be danger of conſiderable bleeding, from opening

opening ſeveral at the ſame time. The opening of one will generally give eaſe, and point out how far the practice may with ſafety be extended to others.

Even in a more advanced ſtate, when the pile has degenerated into a fungus, or excreſcence, ſurgery can do little more than remove the local inconvenience; for, the power of habit and tendency to defluxion will ſtill continue, and the general health of the perſon afflicted will probably be injured if it does not.

When the precautions above-ſpecified have been neglected, diſeaſe in the enlarged pile may go on; repeated fits produce irritation repeatedly; and what is ſometimes a protruding, ſometimes a retracting, pile, becomes, after frequent enlargement, more diſeaſed, and at length fungous. It then appears in the form of an excreſcence. From its ſize and ſituation it conſtantly irritates; that irritation is kept up by a drip from above; and, by the repetition of acrid motions, other parts are gradually brought into the ſame ſituation: the veins, above, partaking of the general affection below, become alſo varicoſe; a thin diſcharge, ſometimes ſlightly tinged with blood, and ſometimes hæmorrhages, ariſe. When the diſeaſe has gone thus

thus far, it has paſſed greatly the bounds of natural piles, and the morbid excreſcences, if within reach, ſhould be removed. Theſe have ſometimes been called cancerous; I do not mean to ſay they never become cancerous, but they are generally fungi merely, and, as ſuch, admit of cure. They happen to both ſexes, but more particularly to women who have had many children, as a conſequence of piles, from the preſſure of the uterus within the pelvis during geſtation: and, in them, they are frequently leſs critical, more accidental, and morbid, than in men.

The antients, and the Arabians after them, uſed the actual cautery to theſe excreſcences; and, when it is conſidered that the complaint has now become more a local that a general one, this painful remedy, although diſcarded from modern practice, is certainly ſafe. Aſtringent ſedatives, whether applied externally or internally, have a general effect as well as a local one; and therefore I believe them to be more exceptionable. The form is ſpecious, but the effects are open to ſuſpicion, if not to danger: but when the part, whence the hæmorrhage ariſes, is not within reach, theſe are the only means of relief; and the ſafeſt are thoſe of the ſtyptic kind.

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The antients alſo employed the knife, as is done at this time: but, from an inſtance of fatal hæmorrhage, a late ſurgeon, of great character, adopted the ligature, and it had been a practice before his time. When it is obſerved that the hæmorrhoidal veins are frequently varicoſe high up, and that the tendency to piles muſt have become habitual long before theſe excreſcences could be formed, it will appear that the latter, although more painful, is the ſafer remedy. But, be the operation what it may, if it were poſſible by theſe methods to prevent the hæmorrhoidal tendency, they would do miſchief. They can only do ſervice in removing an inconvenience, merely local, without deranging the ſtate of the abdominal viſcera, and that of the ſyſtem in general: and the fact, as far as I have been able to inform myſelf, is, that though the irritation, from diſeaſed piles, may be thus removed, yet the tendency to piles continues, and, if it did not, the conſtitution would probably ſuffer from the conſequences of ſuppreſſing a natural diſcharge.

The temperaments moſt ſubject to piles are the ſanguinous and the ſanguineo-melancholic; and, in theſe, the conſequences of ſuch ſuppreſſion are ſometimes ſerious. When the diſpoſition has been fairly

fairly eſtabliſhed for years, from the uſe both of external and internal aſtringents, a tendency to defluxion, in other remote parts, has ſhewn itſelf. Thus the ſuppreſſion of piles has been followed by giddineſs, pains of the head, pulmonic affections, hæmoptoë, &c. It is wonderful there ſhould be this conſent between parts ſo diſtant; but it proves, I think, clearly, that piles are often critical, and, being ſo, great caution ſhould be uſed, particularly late in life, in the attempts to check or cure them. I ſuſpect that complaints, truly cancerous, not only in the rectum, but in the uterus, bladder, and proſtate, have ariſen from their ſuppreſſion; and that to the ſame cauſe may be traced certain enlargements of the liver and ſpleen, — Aloëtics, ſpices, high living, both with reſpect to food and wine, promote the tendency to piles, and, by diſtending them till they burſt, produce, for a time, the termination of a fit. Gentle laxatives, ſulphur, abſorbents, lime-water, and cicuta, taken internally, by correcting the acrimony of the evacuations, and the drip of thin, ſharp, ſecretion, tend to relieve irritation and pain; opiates, locally applied, give eaſe, but they tend to check the recurrence of the diſeaſe.

There

There are three orders of glands, in the female breaſt, which may be affected with cancer. Theſe are the glands deſtined by nature for the ſecretion of the milk, the lymphatic and the ſmaller glands, which have been called the miliary glands of the ſkin. A blow received and neglected, on the two former, may give riſe to a ſcirrhus and cancer; and the ſame circumſtances will ſometimes lead to a diſeaſed teſtis in men. The event, after extirpation, is, however, different in the two ſexes, although diſeaſe in both ariſes from the ſame remote cauſe. Upon the removal of the teſtis, before an affection of the chord commences, permanent relief is generally obtained; the diſeaſe, for the moſt part, not returning: but a cure is not ſo generally effected, even in cancers which can be traced to a blow in the breaſts of women, and that, although the tumour or tumours be perfectly moveable. And the reaſon, I ſuſpect, is this; the teſtis, being a ſolitary gland, has no very near connection with a farther ſeries of glands of the ſame kind with itſelf; it is only connected by ſympathy with its fellow. But, in women, there is not only a ſtrong ſympathy between the two breaſts, but a ſtill greater one between them and the uterus: and there is alſo a connection between glands of different orders in the ſame

ſame breaſt. It is from this laſt circumſtance, particularly, I apprehend, that we find a primary affection, of one or more glands, from a blow, will, when they have been ſuffered by delay to become diſeaſed, propagate the ſame cancerous diſpoſition to other glands in the neighbourhood. The diſeaſed tumours, which take their origin from a blow, and end in ſcirrhus and cancer, are, from the beginning, much larger than thoſe which ariſe in conſequence of an affection of the miliary glands of the ſkin. I have more than once, upon examining a diſeaſed breaſt, after removal, perceived a conſiderable gland, at its upper part, enlarged beyond its natural ſize, of a rediſh colour, ſomewhat reſembling the convoluted appearance of the cerebellum, with other glands of the ſame breaſt in a more diſeaſed ſtate, ſloughy, and even putrid; and, in theſe caſes, there were conſiderable extravaſations confined in the cellular ſubſtance, which were probably the conſequences of a vitiated exſudation, or diſcharge, from the the above glands. Extravaſations, under ſuch circumſtances, are not only excrementitious, but probably endued with a high degree of acrimony, approaching, it has been ſaid, to cauſticity.

Without

Without any blow having been previouſly given, the diſeaſe ſometimes attacks, ſuddenly, not only one breaſt, but both, like a defluxion, with enlargement and pain, but without the ſmalleſt tendency to ſuppuration. Whether this be, thus early, a kind of chronic inflammation, ſomewhat ſimilar to what we ſee in many defluxions on the legs, ending in ulceration; whether it be leprous or ſcrophulous; is difficult to ſay.

Whether this defluxion affects the glands, or cellular ſubſtance, primarily or ſecondarily, we need not inquire; from anatomy we know that this ſubſtance is a common connecting medium, that it occupies the vicinity, and probably forms a part in the ſtructure, of the glands concerned. That theſe glands are denſe bodies, perhaps not generally ſuſceptible of common ſuppuration; that irritation may produce inflammation, and this, if ſuppuration does not follow, can only terminate in reſolution, induration, or a ſlough, which may ſometimes be ſlow, ſometimes quick, in its formation: and therefore I apprehend that the proper means of producing reſolution of ſuch a defluxion, at an early period, are well worth an inquiry. And it is

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no leſs uſeful to attend early to the effects of blows on all glandular parts.

It is much to be regretted that both ſexes, from modeſty or inattention, too often neglect the firſt and moſt favourable opportunity of rendering the uſual means of reſolution ſucceſsful; and the ſame practice, which has been very frequently adopted for promoting the removal of other defluxions and inflammations, has been, in a great meaſure, omitted in theſe. An antiphlogiſtic regimen, general and topical bleeding, fomentations, and, perhaps, even the application of cantharides, locally, may have good effects in ſtopping the progreſs of this diſeaſe, when employed ſufficiently early. I have ſomewhere read, that the progreſs of ſcirrhous glands may be checked, and an induration of an indolent kind brought upon the part, by the free application of vinegar.

How far reſolution may be in the power of art, remains to be inquired. But, if that ſhould be found impracticable, it may, perhaps, be poſſible, by the joint aſſiſtance of external applications, and medicines taken internally, to prevent the increaſe of the diſeaſe, and keep it quiet. When the very ſlow progreſs of ſome ſcirrhous and cancerous tu-

mours

mours is conſidered, much may be expected from medicine and regimen, becauſe there is frequently time to try their effects fully. And from the known tendency to increaſe, which ſcirrhous and cancerous tumours have, and, when increaſed, to become irritable, we are led naturally rather to the uſe of ſedatives than ſtimulants; and although I have mentioned cantharides, I muſt obſerve that it only inflames the ſkin; it produces a conſiderable diſcharge, and thereby relieves inflammations of deeper-ſeated parts. It is of great uſe in many ſcrophulous caſes, and may, perhaps, be ſafely employed in ſmall, incipient, movable, tumours of the cancerous kind. The dread of ulcerating the ſkin has always deterred me from this application; but it may, upon trial, be found as ſafe in the early, as it would, probably, be injurious in a more advanced, ſtate of this diſeaſe, when the ſkin anteriorly adheres to the diſeaſed gland, or when, from a reddiſh ſhining appearance, it ſhews a ſtrong tendency to ulceration; but, in order to obviate irritation, general and local bleeding ſhould precede it, and the veſicatory ſhould be uſed without the combination of any heating ſtimulating ſubſtance.

A poor woman with a cancerous tumour, movable, and not larger than a pigeon's egg, applied to a perſon who imagined he could remove it by a cauſtic. The cauſtic was the Lixiv. Sapon. rendered more active by long evaporation; which, although powerful, did not operate with ſufficient force to deſtroy the whole of the part diſeaſed: it only ſloughed a portion of the ſkin. The cancer, thus imprudently treated, became ulcerated: it went on in the uſual way, until her health was greatly impaired. When, in this ſtate, ſhe was recommended to try the effect of toads applied alive to the ulceration: ſhe ſubmitted to this diſagreeable remedy; and I was informed, by the attending ſurgeon, that the ſore was healed by their application: but ſhe died conſumptive. Perhaps leeches would have anſwered as well. — The return of the diſeaſe to the part whence a cancer has been removed is painful to the ſurgeon, and highly diſtreſſing to the patient. Perhaps the application of the above means of producing local evacuation may check the progreſs of the ulceration, or aſſiſt other means of accompliſhing the ſame intention. There are many ſedatives, particularly the vitriolic, of the effects of which, in cancers, we know but little; and the ſame may be ſaid of the

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pus moventia: thoſe applications which produce a laudable diſcharge, and healthy granulations in other ulcerations.

There is an herb, which, from the ſucceſs attending its application to *verrucæ*, I am ſtrongly inclined to think would be uſeful in this caſe. It is the common ſavin, freſh gathered, and, in that ſtate, dried and reduced to fine powder: I have had no experience of its effects in cancers, but its effects in the above excreſcences are remarkable. Without producing much pain, it occaſions the mouldering away of the excreſcence, which it abſolutely deſtroys in a ſlow manner; while its action, on the ſurrounding ſound parts, does not go beyond excoriation or ulceration: in them it occaſions no loſs of ſubſtance, but ſeems to have the property of deſtroying the diſeaſed warts only. I know of no cauſtic, except this, that does not produce, indiſcriminately, a ſlough of the ſound as well as of the diſeaſed part; and its action is attended with little irritation. Its effects, alſo, in other caſes, when the part ulcerates, and the morbid glands are expoſed, are well worth trying. If it will act on ſuch gland, or on a cancerous fungus, as it does on *verrucæ*, it may be of great ſervice. The effects of fixed air, of figs, and, as a poultice, of boiled and

raw carrots, and of hemlock, externally, are not ſufficiently aſcertained by experience.

The miliary glands of the ſkin, in their natural ſound ſtate, are not eaſily diſcoverable by the touch; but, when enlarged by diſeaſe, may be perceived with the greateſt eaſe. And, upon the examination of perſons who have died with cancers of the breaſt, we ſometimes find ſmall glands (whether miliary or not I cannot ſay) deeper than the ſkin.

It is extremely difficult to trace the firſt rudiment of a cancer from a primary affection of one of theſe miliary glands in the breaſt; it may, perhaps, be diſcovered early in cancers of the lip, and in the *noli me tangere* of the face. But upon the return of a cancer to the cicatrix, after an unſucceſsful removal of the breaſt, I have frequently ſeen them, and could then mark their progreſs. They are at firſt very ſmall, devoid of pain, perfectly hard and movable, like peas under the ſkin; by degrees they increaſe in ſize, have a diſpoſition to unite one with the other, as it were by a kind of attraction: but they are at firſt diſtinct, and often remain ſo. After a ſhorter or longer period, they become fixed poſteriorly to the adja-

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cent parts; though fixed, they ſtill remain, for a time, indolent, and, even under ſlight preſſure, inſenſible. As the tumour advances, the ſkin anteriorly is attached to its ſurface, and the whole becomes immovable. In proportion as the tumour becomes enlarged and diſtended, ſo the ſkin appears upon the ſtretch, ſmooth, and ſhining, ſometimes of a reddiſh-purple hue. If the tumefaction be ſmall, it may remain in this ſtate a conſiderable time; if the ſkin be much diſtended, it burſts, and the part ulcerates.

In a caſe of this kind, and in a habit decidedly ſcrophulous, an adherent tumour aroſe in the cicatrix remaining after a ſecond removal of the parts; and there were two other ſmall movable tumours, not bigger than peas, near the axilla: theſe approximated, and became one tumour; and, at length, like the original one, became alſo fixed. The progreſs of this was more quick than that of the firſt tumour; great care having been taken to keep the ſkin whole, an exudation took place through its pores: that was followed by excoriation, a yellowiſh kind of cruſt, or ſcab, and, after a conſiderable time, ulceration. The firſt followed the courſe of the ſecond tumour, and that alſo ulcerated. This perſon had, previous to the repullula-

tion of the diſeaſe in the above form, ſubmitted to the exciſion of the whole breaſt, and to the removal of a ſubſequent tumour. There was only the interval of ſeven months from the removal of the breaſt to the ſecond operation; but there was an interval of nearly the ſame number of years from this to the final termination of the diſeaſe. — This period was marked by a great variety of circumſtances. Under the idea that hemlock, internally, and Plummer's alterative pills, might be of ſervice, ſhe gave a fair trial to both: from the hemlock ſhe derived no advantage whatever; the alterative mercurial was taken for many weeks, and toward the cloſe of this courſe it ſeemed to diminiſh the tumour near the axilla; it made, however, no impreſſion on the other tumour, and injured her general health. It rendered her irritable, diſpoſed her to colds, coughs, and laid the foundation of repeated attacks on the cheſt; when I ſay that, I believe it did no more than accelerate that kind of pulmonic affection, which takes place, ſooner or later, in moſt cancers of the breaſt, when they are incurable: for, ſhe went out often in very inclement weather, during the uſe of this medicine, contrary to the advice of thoſe who attended her. If any one ſhould be induced to try the effect either of this medicine, Æthiops Antimon, or mercury

cury in any other form, in preventing the return of the diſeaſe, after it has been once removed by an operation, I would adviſe him to employ it, under confinement, as early as he can, with ſafety, after the operation, and before the ſore is healed. It has been generally allowed, that this medicine aggravates a cancerous complaint; but it is poſſible it may have an effect in preventing the return of the diſeaſe, after the parts diſeaſed have been fairly taken away. Notwithſtanding the frequent relapſes, daily met with, the full effect of this medicine has never, I believe, been fairly tried. The late Mr. Cheſelden ſeems to have been of opinion that it might be uſeful when employed with this intention; for, he ſucceeded in healing perfectly a ſordid ſore, remaining after extirpation, by the application of *Merc. nitr. rub.* producing an accidental ſalivation. The change in the ſyſtem, producible by mercury, may perhaps have a power of aſſiſting other means in preventing the return; and it may likewiſe be admiſſible in ſome caſes of ſcirrhus, early in the diſeaſe. A ſmall ſcirrhous tumour in the breaſt was perfectly diſcuſſed, to my knowledge, by the ſuperficial application of a mild mercurial ointment: and there does not appear to be the ſmalleſt objection to the application of mercury, in any form, for expediting or aſſiſting the

healing of the wound after a removal of parts. *Mercur. nitr. rub.* uſed moderately, may be generally a ſafe application, and preferable, perhaps, to the *argent. nitr.* which is more commonly employed to haſten the healing of the wound after extirpation.

But to return to the hiſtory of the caſe. The tumours, above-mentioned, though they ulcerated, were at no time larger than a ſmall nutmeg. Other tumours, apparently of the ſame kind, aroſe in their neighbourhood; their number was great, but their ſize was ſmall. Thus the diſeaſe went on from one gland to another, firſt hardening, then ulcerating, them, until the ſeveral ulcerations covered the diameter of a large diſh, extending under the axilla even to the ſcapula on that ſide; in this direction it made its principal ravages, without running on to the ſternum and other breaſt. By the conſtant uſe of a poultice of boiled carrots, theſe ulcerations not only had no *fætor*, but they often looked well, and would heal in one part, and break out in another. However, partly from the conſtant drain, partly from repeated attacks on the cheſt, ſhe got every day weaker, more emaciated, and hectical. Under all theſe diſtreſſing circumſtances, the place, where the tumour, near the axilla,

axilla, was, ſhewed not only a diſpoſition to heal, but was ſo far healed, that, from the tucking down of the ſkin, a kind of ſtricture on that part was made. This, together with other diſeaſed glands in the axilla, produced ſuch a preſſure on the lymphatics, nerves, and blood-veſſels, of the arm on that ſide, that, from the diſtenſion and load, great numbneſs and pain were, at times, felt. The loaded lymphatics might be traced down the arm: at certain diſtances ſuppurations took place, which, burſting, thereby afforded a ſhort temporary relief. The whole extremity, even to the fingers, was not only much ſwollen, but the ſkin was, in ſome parts, diſcoloured, from the want of ſufficient circulation. The lungs were frequently affected with an aſthmatic kind of paroxyſm, and theſe affections were attended not only with cough, but pain in the ſide, ſenſe of ſtricture, and of ſuffocation. And theſe internal ſymptoms alternated with the painful ſtate of the arm; and, in proportion as the one part was more violently affected, ſo was the other relieved; and in this way it went on to its final termination.

This perſon, though a married woman, had never had children. She had been ſubject for years, both before and after the attack of the diſeaſe, to violent

violent head-ache, a very diſtreſſing painful vomiting, and bilious affections of her bowels.

One argument for the removal of cancerous tumours, favourably circumſtanced, is this; that every perſon, having ſuch diſeaſe, carries about a gland or glands not only uſeleſs but liable from accidental circumſtances, ſuch as a blow, a fall, &c. to become troubleſome and even dangerous to life. It is therefore ſafer to part with them, than to run the riſk of contingencies; and the removal, when undertaken ſufficiently early, has been very frequently attended with ſucceſs. Every man of experience muſt however lament that the operative part of ſurgery is not more generally ſucceſsful in this diſeaſe. The parts in which cancers make their appearance are very different. This makes the removal of a cancerous tumour more certainly a cure in one caſe than in another. The date, ſtate, and kind, of cancer alſo make the proſpect of cure better or worſe. How different in aſpect is the *noli me tangere* from many cancers of the breaſt. How different, again, are theſe from many fungous excreſcences in the orbit, in the mouth, and other parts, which have been called cancerous; ſome of which actually are ſo. The female breaſt is perhaps a part more ſubject to a relapſe from an operation than

than any other. And, as it is, I believe, more frequently the ſeat of this diſeaſe than any other, too much attention cannot be paid to the appearances from the beginning. Whether the tumour or tumours be conſidered as fit ſubjects for removal, or for being moderated by medicine and a ſuitable regimen, the means of relief ſhould be ſpeedily applied; and, if the character of the diſeaſe be fairly marked, the application cannot be too early. After extirpation, ſcirrhi of ſize do ſometimes return, and the diſeaſe may come on again after the early removal of the whole breaſt. Some years back I remember to have examined a breaſt, after the operation, in which the appearances of diſeaſe were ſo very trifling, that I then thought the operation had been determined upon too haſtily. The complaint had only been diſcovered a fortnight before; and, although it was taken thus early, the cure was not accompliſhed. There was no glandular enlargement, but a thickening and hardneſs of what ſeemed to be more like a condenſed cellular membrane than glandular induration, and the axillary glands were not apparently affected. The proſpect is much worſe when the axillary glands are affected; and a removal of parts, when adviſable, ſhould, if poſſible, be done before ſuch affection.

When

When a cancer ariſes from a blow, eſpecially in a young perſon, it is one thing; when it comes on, as a defluxion, at a certain period of life, upon glands previouſly altered or prediſpoſed to diſeaſe by age, it is another. In this laſt caſe the defluxion attacked only one breaſt, but it ſometimes ſeizes both; producing conſiderable thickening, hardneſs, and pain. To think of removing parts under ſuch circumſtances would be very wrong. The intentions ſeem to be to leſſen the local irritation by leeches applied near the part, fomentations, warmth, and regimen; and to divert that determination which has taken place in theſe to ſome other parts; and this laſt has been effected by increaſing the ſecretions from the ſkin, kidneys, and inteſtines, attending to the catamenia, if they exiſt, or promoting the hæmorrhoids if they do not; or, if there ſhould be a difficulty in this, by drawing blood from the hæmorrhoidal veſſels by leeches, quickening the circulation towards the feet by pediluvia, and opening drains at a diſtance from the breaſt: by theſe means, I ſay, the neceſſary derivation and revulſion may be made. Warm ſea-water alone, at a diſtance from the ſea, as a fomentation merely, in a lady near ſeventy, who had an attack of the above kind on both breaſts, with a diſcharge

diſcharge from one nipple which was ſunk in, removed the complaint in a month. When the defluxion and pain ſubſided, a fit of the hæmorrhoids took place; when theſe left her, an inflammation and fulneſs of one leg aroſe; and, after continuing ſome time, terminated without ulceration. Relief to a certain degree has, I know, been obtained by warm ſea-bathing. The advantages of regimen, of a milk and vegetable diet, good air, and cooling mineral waters, and their effects in moderating the progreſs of this diſeaſe, are well worth the trial. If the diſeaſe even ariſes from a ſcrophulous or leprous diſpoſition, the cure muſt be ſought for in the cure of theſe diſeaſes. If it depends on that ſpecies of lepra called elephantiaſis; if we could cure the latter we ſhould probably be able to cure the worſt ſpecies of cancer; and the ſame means which are capable of moderating theſe diſeaſes may, and probably will, moderate this. And I cannot help expreſſing a wiſh, that, in the proſecution of the intended plan, as much attention may be paid to the lenient and medical, and that in every ſtage of the complaint, as has been given in all ages to what is ſtrictly the chirurgical, part of the treatment. Candour obliges me to acknowledge, from the experience I have ſeen, in the beſt hands, that the latter has not been ſo ſucceſsful as might be wiſhed; and, if we confine

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the aſſertion to the operative part of ſurgery only, the treatment of the diſeaſe is not perhaps capable of much farther improvement. The removal of cancerous tumours was never ſo well executed as it is now, nor the ſtates of the diſeaſe, requiring removal, better or more accurately underſtood. And yet, with theſe advantages, no man can promiſe a cure from the exertion of the greateſt abilities in the due performance of a painful and very diſtreſſing alternative.

Let attempts to diſcover a ſpecific, (if there is one in nature,) or a milder and more certain method of cure than the knife, be made in other directions. Let us inquire what nature will do, and what, by following her indications, ſhe will bear. Let cloſe attention be paid to the effects of topical applications, and of medicines given internally. But let not the moſt probable means of relief which are already known, and which we at this time derive from ſurgery, be neglected. Let the phyſician and ſurgeon go hand in hand, labouring in the ſame cauſe to the ſame beneficent end. Let the utmoſt advantage be derived from that colliſion of minds and of thoughts, which a body of reſpectable medical men may, by a general communication and co-operation, produce; and, when their obſervations

are

are moulded into form, they cannot be made too public. The great object of this inſtitution is general utility. It is founded, I hope, on unexceptionable medical principles; and the manner, in which the inveſtigation of the diſeaſe will be conducted, will, I truſt, be always open, liberal, and manly.

From what I have been able to collect from two caſes of the chimney-ſweepers cancer, one of which is now in the Middleſex, the other was lately in the Weſtminſter, hoſpital, it appears that the diſeaſe, in both patients, aroſe from wood-ſoot, and from that only. That, in the latter caſe, though the diſeaſe had advanced to a very late ſtage, having extended not only to the ſkin and cellular ſubſtance of the *ſcrotum*, but to the *tunica vaginalis* of both teſtes; that, by taking away all the diſeaſed parts, including the *tunica vaginalis*, a cure has been happily effected without removing the teſtes. — In the other caſe, the firſt appearance of diſeaſe was a wart; that wart the patient had plucked off himſelf; this was followed by a riſe of ſeveral others; and that by a ſpreading ulceration. The man is forty-one, and has been a chimney-ſweeper from twelve years of age. He has been fifteen years diſeaſed, during three only of which has the part

part been in a ſtate of ulceration: ſo that there was a long interval of ſeveral years, during which the diſeaſe was growing in the ſtate of a wart. The ſore is now of ſuch a nature, and ſo ſituated, that it is doubtful whether any operation can relieve him. — But it is highly probable, if the original wart had, with its attachments, been removed at an early period, that he would have had a permanent cure. It it remarkable that he has alſo a wart projecting like a tooth from his upper lip, which has grown in the place from which a former one had been removed by himſelf.

I forbear to enlarge on the facts which this ſingle caſe is capable of furniſhing.

When the reader reflects that one great object of the propoſed Inſtitution is to preſerve from oblivion the circumſtances of ſuch caſes as may occur; when he foreſees that theſe will probably be numerous, and that the record will be carefully kept, and its contents freely communicated, he may form ſome idea of the utility of this part of the plan, and of the immenſe advantage it will be not only to medicine, but to mankind in general.

Having

Having had the honour of bringing forward a difficult public buſineſs in a regular ſcientific way, I beg leave in vindication of the ready adoption the plan has met with from the governors and medical gentlemen of the Middleſex-Hoſpital, and to ſhield both them and myſelf from every idea of quackery, to obſerve, that their attention and cares will be conſiderably increaſed, without an adequate compenſation. And, as to myſelf, I derive no advantages from the inſtitution. I have only the pleaſure of having aided confidentially, and to the beſt of my judgement, the good intentions of my friend.

The medical gentlemen of the houſe are in full poſſeſſion of the ſentiments of the donor; and, being men of known character, there cannot be a doubt but the buſineſs will be conducted in a proper manner. Their conduct will be a leſſon to thoſe who are to come after them, and an example to all mankind, ſhewing, on the firm Hippocratic ground, with the aſſiſtance of the experimental knowledge of the preſent day, how much may be done practically, towards the advancement of this part of medicine, by induſtry, a well-directed arrangement, and a fortunate combination of circumſtances.

THE END.